THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d) The various issues arising out of decontrol of molasses and alcohol were raised in a Conference of Excise Ministers of the States and Union Territories on 4-11-1993. The Conference set up a Group of State Excise Ministers under the Chairmanship of Karnataka Chief Minister to look into the matter and suggest measures to harmonise the rules and procedures in the States to bring them in tune with the decontrol of molasses and alcohol.

Potash Fertilizer

1286. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the annual requirement of potash fertilizers in the country and how these requirements are met;

(b) what is the amount of potash fertilizers imported during years 1990-91 to 1993-94; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there are proposals to set up sufficient number of potash fertilizer units to attain self-sufficiency in their production; if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) The consumption of potash (nutrient) during the current year (1993-94) is estimated to be 9 lakh tonnes. The quantities of potash (nutrient) imported during the years 1990-91 to 1993-94 (upto December 1993) are given below :—

Year	Qty. in nutrient terms (lakh Mts)
1990-91 . . .	13.28
1991-92 . . .	12.36
1992-93 . . .	10.82
1993-94 . . . (upto December)	6.16

Since there are no known, commercially exploitable reserves of potash in India, the country's requirements are met wholly through imports.

There is adequate capacity in the country for the manufacture of complex fertilizers based on imported MOP. There is no concrete proposal at present to set up any plant for the manufacture of MOP.

Cases of Overcharging of prices

1287. PROF. I. G. SANADI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2092 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th August, 1993 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that files relating to cases of overcharging of prices have been removed from the Government records in connivance with the Officers. if so, what are the details of Jagson Pal, M/s Systopic and others;

(b) what are the products and companies against whom the cases have been filed by the State Governments so far and what are the issues involved in these cases;

(c) whether these cases have been filed at the instance of the Ministry or by the State Drug Controllers of their own; and

(d) what are the cases of overcharging which have been brought to the notice of the Ministry but where neither the cases have been filed nor the recoverable amounts have been calculated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FLEIRO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) This Department had received some complaints of alleged overcharging of the bulk drugs, the detaills of which are given in the Statement (See below). As and when any complaint of alleged overcharging of bulk drugs is received, the same is forwarded to the concerned State Drug Control Administration for investigation and necessary action under the Essential Commodities Act 1955. To the extent information is available, the State Drug Controller of Maharashtra had filed in Court of Law against 9 units including traders and manufacturers. The State Drug Controller of Gujarat has also initiated action against 3 units on account of overcharging of prices.

Statement

Sr. No.	Name of the Bulk Drug
1	Vitamin C Plain
2	Vitamin C Coated
3	Sodium Ascorbate
4	Prednisolone
5	Rifampicin
6	Erythromycin Stearate
7	Ampicillin Trihydrate
8	Trimethoprim
9	Metronidazole
10	Metronidazole Benzoate
11	Pyrazinamide
12	Di-Ethyl Carbamazine Citrate
13	Ethambutol Hcl
14	Cloxacillin Sodium (Oral Grade)
15	Chloroquine Phosphate
16	Sulphamethoxazole
17	Tetracycline Hcl
18	Analgin
19	Amoxycillin Trihydrate
20	Cephalexin.

Ceiling price concept for formulations

1288. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN : Will the MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that bulk drugs are not available at a single uniform price from different sources; if so, why is the Ministry drafting the ceiling price concept for formulations;

(b) whether this concept results in the producers of formulations getting huge unintended benefits at the cost of the consumer as is presently happening in case of several formulations based on Ranitidine, Erthromycin, Betamethasone, Cemitidine, Carbamezapine, Oxytetracycline, etc. where ceiling prices have been fixed;

(c) whether it is a fact that undue benefit given to each formulator runs into crores per year and the money is giving rise to black money; and

(d) why has the Government been mislead on this issue by the bureaucracy. the full details in this regard and what action is being taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) Price of bulk drug is only one of the several inputs in the price of a formulation. Ceiling price concept is applied in accordance with para 9(6) of DPCO, 1987 in cases where it is considered necessary or expedient in order to achieve reasonability and uniformity in price of a widely used formulations manufactured by a number of formulators.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Manipulation in the consumption and cost of inputs

1289. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY :

SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that cost of inputs and their consumption have been manipulated to fix high prices for Dexamethasone, Vitamin C and Ranitidine;

(b) who worked out the last revision in their price and what action has been taken for passing on indirect benefit of crores of rupees to the producers of these drugs;

(c) whether actual production of inputs, imports and their rates for the last three years have not been verified and what were the rates of these inputs on which last price revision was based and what are the actual rates at which the inputs have been procured and used after price revision;

(d) whether BICP would look into the prices of these drugs quickly; and

(e) whether any-body in the BICP is responsible for such a state of affairs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (e) Prices of bulk Drugs Dexamethasone and Vitamin C have been fixed and revised from time to time in accordance with the provisions of DPCO, 1987. Cost-cum-technical study has been initiated by the BICP to determine the price of bulk drug Ranitidine.